

## Black on Black Violence & the Black Family (Part 2 of a 3-part Series)

*"The family is the corner stone of our society. More than any other force it shapes the attitude, the hopes, the ambitions, and the values of the child. And when the family collapses it is the children that are usually damaged. When it happens on a massive scale the community itself is crippled. So, unless we work to strengthen the family, to create conditions under which most parents will stay together, all the rest - schools, playgrounds, and public assistance, and private concern will never be enough".*  
**Lyndon Baines Johnson (thirty-sixth president of the United States)**

### Preface

The following discussion is intended to illustrate situations that bring-about Black on Black violence and the problems that this kind of violence creates. It is in no way intended to take responsibility away from those who are committing these acts by showing them only as victims of circumstances. While these criminals are to be blamed, there are changes that can be made by the government as a means of reducing crime and strengthening the Black family. It must also be understood that there are many things that we can do as a community. Young people need to be engaged and not marginalized.

# Combating Violent Behavior

*Submitted by Milton Hart*

Black men are killing Black men because gangs are prevalent within our communities and a life of crime seems more lucrative than honest living. Gangs have seemingly replaced families where young men have greater ties to the street than to those who genuinely care about them. This is assuming that every young man has people who care about him, and if the case is that nobody does, then the community is negligent in its duties.

### The Black Family

The Black family is undoubtedly one of the most resilient components of any society. It has endured the ravages of slavery, colonialism and the many besetting circumstances within society. Due to the overall lack of financial clout, the components of the Black family have been systemically excluded from many traditional institutions and are usually vulnerable to public policy changes.

It must be noted that when the Black family is affected by public policy changes, the institutions within

the Black community also suffer; institutions such as the Black church, Black-owned businesses and Black-run organizations. The obvious solution to this situation would be for the government to ensure the effective participation of Black individuals in societal institutions across Canada, enhance the lives of individuals within Black communities, and view the Black family as being unique. Due to the unique circumstances that have afflicted the Black family, it should not be compared to other families.

"The primary difference is that Black families, because of social and economic hardships, developed unique family arrangements. Hence, Black families became dependent upon external informal support systems to a greater extent than did their white counterparts. In other words, the Black families have not been autonomous units; rather they have historically relied on informal social support systems for survival". (Jewell, 13).

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## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SUNDAY

**MAY 25, 2003**

2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Jamaican Canadian Centre  
995 Arrow Road

**For further information call**

**JCA at (416) 746-5772**



# EDITORIAL

There is a proverb that states, "what you don't know, won't hurt you". This proverb should not always be believed. Sadly, some folks believe and act on this proverb without realizing they are doing so.

The Jamaican Canadian Association has been educating the community for over 40 years and once again, the JCA wants to remind parents, grandparents and all other persons within the community who aspire to sponsor children to Canada that there are some basic requirements that must be followed to help children succeed. In order for sponsored children to assimilate properly and succeed in the Canadian education system, they must be prepared when they arrive here.

It is a known fact that many parents leave their children behind for various lengths of time before they are able to reunite the family. This is not a crime, but this separation is known to create many negative issues. During this period of separation, many of these children are enamoured by the idea of "going to foreign". They dream in 'technicolour' and see only 'greener' grass, homes overflowing with various gadgets, money flowing like milk and honey and the hope for an easier, better life. With the "Americanization" of all things Jamaican and the constant bombardment of soap operas and movies that defy reality, many of our children await their arrival in this land of plenty with a view to simply enjoy the spoils that they have seen on television. Afterall, the people on these shows do not work, but live the high life, why should all others not be able to do the same?

With this 'technicolour dream' in mind, as soon as the sponsorship papers are filed many of our children quit attending school, preferring to wait until they arrive in Canada. This will nullify any possibility of success. When our children stop attending school the lag time between leaving Jamaica and starting school in the Canadian system cannot be recaptured. This affects all our children, but becomes magnified with our children who are at the high or secondary school level. It is imperative for our children to remain in school if

they are ever to succeed upon their arrival.

Parents, it is important to note that once the children of high or secondary level arrive, it is the your responsibility to contact the school within your area to have them registered. However, the process is not just completing a form and then having them attend school. Quite the contrary. As parents, you will be directed to contact the School Board for your area. You will then have to set an appointment with the School Board to have your children complete a standardized test at a testing center in your board district. This test is generic and includes a one on one oral interview conducted by someone from the School Board's testing center. This oral interview is followed by a written English and Mathematics portion. The results are then sent to the Guidance Department of the school your child will attend.

The interview portion must be done by your children, face to face with the interviewer. The parents are allowed to be in the room, but must not help with the answers. Points are not awarded if your child is unable to answer the questions posed, shows an inability explain him or herself and certainly nothing is gained by exhibiting an excess amount of shyness. Points are deducted if parents try to give them the answers. Parents are known to get angry when they believe that the questions are simple and the child should be able to answer them without any problem. It is necessary to remember that everything will be new and it would be in the best interest of all if as the parents, you took an active role in giving your children some tips ahead of time on how the basic Canadian system works. Parents must not wait for children to learn everything at school. It is your responsibility to pave the way for learning on behalf of your children.

It behooves both children and parents to be sure that all school reports and transcripts are available for presentation to the school board's testing center as well as to the school. If there are any missing portions in the child's school records, such as attendance, exam grades and teachers comments, these are seen as negatives for your children.

The results of both the interview portion and the written English and Mathematics

tests are then used to determine the placement your children will be given. Many children are placed in ESL classes to the chagrin of parents as it is felt that English is Jamaica's first language and therefore the child 'must' know English. However, the test consists of various components and if the children had stopped attending school, the foundation concepts that they would have learned in school would be absent and it would be impossible for them to be able to comprehend what is being asked of them and therefore be unable to pass the test. It is important that though we are proud of our other language, our children must be encouraged to practice the proper writing, speaking and sentence

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**IN FOCUS**  
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
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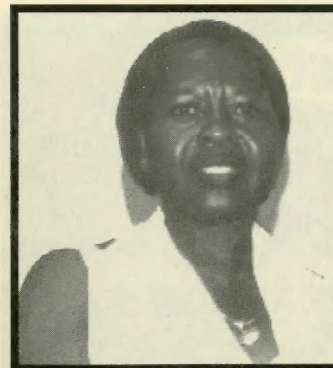
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*Letters and submissions welcome. The Editorial Committee reserves the right to edit materials.*



# President's REPORT

Valarie Steele

A year goes by so quickly and once again we are approaching our Annual General Meeting and a review is in order. Hope you have weathered the past winter quite well and look forward with great anticipation to months of warmth and sunshine - after all, we deserve it.

Our Forty-Years-of-Caring & Sharing celebrations was very successful. Our celebration was twofold, our fortieth and Jamaica's 40th year of independence; the Jamaican Canadian Association ("JCA") was founded in celebration of Jamaica's Independence in 1962. As we paused to celebrate, we also saluted our founding members and thanked them and the other members who have been around for 25-40 years that have served us very well.

The car raffle, one of our major fundraising events was poorly supported last year and to that end we did not realize as much money as we had anticipated. Our annual Golf Classic, held in August 2002, was a resounding success and this is an event that is evolving into a JCA premier event. Thank you to the Golf Committee, they work very hard to get this Golf Tournament going each year and we are truly grateful for their effort.

We now have a new Fundraising Chair and we look forward to a better year ahead.

The JCA's Scholarship Fund is alive and well. We

allotted our first scholarships last November, (2002) and we will have more to hand out this year. If you are thinking of giving a scholarship in your name or to honor a loved one, please consider donating under our scholarship fund. It is very important that we help our children to be their best selves and one of the ways of doing this is through assisting with their education.

Many important issues continue to beset our communities. None of these issues will get quick fixes since our community issues are not dealt with, with the same speed and vigor that others are accorded. Notwithstanding that, we soldier on. Elections, Municipal, Provincial and Federal are all coming down the pipelines and this is an area that our community has always neglected. This is an opportune time to ensure that we not only ensure that we are eligible to vote but that we do so in large numbers and make our votes count. Many of the elected officials that we as community leaders have to talk with do not really have our interest at heart at all. And why should they! We elected them by not voting and they know this. The overall fact is, politicians know who voted on election day and only answer to those that come out to vote because those people determine who get elected. As a

community we should ensure that we participate in the electoral process and ensure that the persons that represent us have an interest in ensuring that our needs are met and our concerns addressed. Begin your drive to Election Day today.

Many of our youth that are eligible to vote they were born here or are Canadian citizens do not exercise that right. They are a group in our community that needs to flex their muscles in the political arena and have not done so. It is time to do so. We cannot lead effectively if we do not have followers. We can be better leaders if you will heed our call to the ballot boxes so that we will have elected people to talk with who have an interest in our issues. MORE TO COME!

Thank you to all of our committees for your tireless works over the past year. The association could not go on without your help. Special mentions to our Building Committee, your effort shines through every time we walk into that building, thank you.

To our Seniors Group and Domino Club members, thank you for your support. We deeply appreciate your dedication and commitment to us, thank you.

Over the year a few of our stalwarts have passed on. They are sorely missed and will always remain in our hearts. To their grieving families we convey our deepest sympathy and thank you for sharing them with us so generously.

We are still struggling to find enough volunteers to do the work of the association. The tireless workers are burning out and it is imperative that others step to the frontlines to help with the workload as we march towards another 40 years.

On behalf of the Board of Directors I convey our sincere thanks to you for your continued support as we go from strength to strength. As a community we have much to celebrate yet there is much to be done and we must journey on.

JAMAICAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION  
CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF  
CARING and SHARING



## Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee is charged with finding candidates to fill the following vacancies on the Jamaican Canadian Association Board of Directors at its Annual General Meeting on May 25<sup>th</sup> 2003.

The following positions will be vacant on this day, and successfully elected candidates will serve for two years:

1. Vice President
2. Treasurer
3. Public Relations
4. Membership
5. Executive Secretary.

The Nominating Committee is pleased to nominate the following candidates:

### **Claudette Cameron-Stewart** (Incumbent)

Worked assiduously in her role as Vice President of the JCA during term of office as Vice President and Public Relations Chairperson.

- Chaired Management Committee and formalized policies in the best interest of JCA membership.

- Act as liaison between Jamaica's Consulate, the Jamaican Alliance and the JCA

- Represents JCA at the United Way.

- Substitute for the President at numerous public functions.

- Served on the Association's very successful 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Committee.

- Reorganize and reformatted the JCA *In Focus* Magazine.

- Taught netball at Saturday morning program.

- Profiling of Founding Members and Former Presidents of JCA

#### **Goals for Next Session:**

- Work towards greater accountability of JCA staff
- Work towards greater

Cohesion of Management Committee

- Support JCA's department heads in proposal writings and presentations to Funders.

- Continue my project on the profiling of Founding Members and former Presidents as a source of JCA's history.

Continue to serve on Public Relations Committee, and also to support our youth.

### **Barbara E Thomas** (Vice Presidential Candidate)

Health care professional, with over 30 years working with the same employer, also over 20 years, working in management Administration.

#### **Volunteer Experience**

- Active member of JCA for over 25 years,

- Past Chair of Membership Committee, the now defunct Social Committee and more recently the Fundraising Committee

- Past Chair of 7 years of The Castlview Wychwood Towers Home for the Aged Home Advisory Committee.

- Current Chair of Local Church Finance & Maintenance committee.

#### **Goals**

- Although I am still employed, I will continue with my community volunteering activities.

- Continue to be a Role Model for our Youth

- Continue to strive for high integrity and the development of high community profile for the Association.

- Work cohesively with the Board, Funders, Staff, Membership, Clientele and all those in contact with the Association.

- Bring and Maintain Objectivity to the Board.

### **(Francelia Vassell** **Executive Secretary** **Candidates)**

- Obtained a B.A. from University of Windsor

- Has a Vocational Rehabilitation Certificate from Seneca

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## MEMBERSHIP SERVICES REPORT

Submitted:

Pauline Reid, Membership Chair

We are coming to the end of another JCA calendar year with our Annual General Meeting in May 2003. It has been a wonderful three years for me on the Board Of Directors. I have learned a lot and had a great time serving my organization and community. I met some wonderful people and made some great friends. The work of JCA must go on and at this time we are recruiting for a new Membership Chair. One of the most exciting part of this job is the recruiting and retaining of members, and to make sure that people get involved with the association. The Membership Committee of JCA plays a vital role in the overall existence of the association and as we look forward to another

Year, would like to personally thank all the members for their support.

Thanks to all the members who have faithfully and diligently renewed their membership for 2003. The response was overwhelming. You should have received a yellow sticker for 2003: if you haven't it will be given out at the Annual General Meeting in May 2003.

We have just lost one of our stalwarts Mr. Josh Thompson. Josh was a member of the association for over 36 years. He will be sorely missed. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to Lydia and the family.

Please note these upcoming events:

**Sunday, July 6, 2003 Annual Picnic/Outing to Riverside Park in Guelph. Tickets go on sale May 19th June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Adults and seniors \$25.00, children under 12 \$10.00.**

**Sunday, August 3, 2003 Flag**

**Raising Ceremony at City Hall, 2:00 pm sharp.**

**Sunday, September 21, 2003 Annual Seniors Brunch, 1:30 at JCA. We are asking for sponsorship of \$5.00 per person.**

We are planning a Membership Appreciation Summer BBQ. Date and time TBA.

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## Nominating Committee Report

Continued

- Former JCA Assistant for the Leaders in Partnership Program (LIP)

- Former Public Relations Officer for CARISA Univ. of Windsor

- Secretary for Black Students Alliance Univ. of Windsor

#### **Goals:**

To carry out the secretarial duties of the JCA effectively and efficiently.

To be an effective team player I am always interested in volunteering for an organization which works for the betterment of

### **Patrick Chambers.** (Public Relations Candidate)

- Civil Engineer
- Former JCA Youth Committee Chairperson
- Volunteer Tutor at Saturday Morning Program
- Budding Entrepreneur
- Runs a construction management company

#### **Goals**

- To increase the presence of JCA in the community.
- To familiarize more youth with the programs offered by the JCA

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# Education REPORT

Dear Friends:

Over the past forty years the Jamaican Canadian Association (JCA) has assisted many young people in their quest for higher education by awarding scholarships. In recent times however, and for many reasons we have been unable to fulfill this part of our duty to our community.

The Education Committee has initiated a revival of the JCA Annual Scholarship Awards Program.

Traditionally the JCA has given two major scholarships for which funds have to be raised. These are the "I Have A Dream" and "The Marcus Garvey" scholarships. Both these scholarships belong to the membership of the JCA and are of great significance in terms of our history as a people as they relate to Martin Luther King Jr. and Marcus Garvey. We therefore appeal to you as caring members of our community to

make a direct contribution towards these two scholarships. Our target is \$5000 divided equally between the two scholarships. Donations of \$20, \$50, \$100, \$200 or more will be greatly appreciated. In addition members who donate \$1000 or more will have a scholarship presented in their name if they so choose. We further encourage all members to consider making their donations on an annual basis in order to keep the program alive. A tax receipt will be issued for all donations.

It is vital that we make the effort however small; to support our young people who are striving to educate themselves and eventually take their rightful place in the society. They are our future and with your help they

will succeed in becoming fine role models for those who follow them. As we say in Jamaica "one, one coco full basket". Please be generous in your donations.

Send your donations to the JCA and clearly label **SCHOLARSHIP FUND**, c/o The Education Committee. We ask that all contributions for this year's scholarship be in before the end of June 2003.

We thank you for your kind consideration and look forward to hearing from you'

Sincerely,  
Barrington Morrison  
*Chair of the Education Committee*

4695 Sheppard Ave. East  
Unit A107  
Toronto, Ontario  
M1S 4R4

December 16, 2002

The Jamaica Canadian Association  
995 Arrow Road,  
Toronto, Ontario  
M9M 2Z5

Dear Selection Committee Members,

I would like to convey my sincere gratitude for your hard work on the Scholarship Selection Committee. I feel humble and proud to be one of the recipients of a 2002 Award.

The special dinner and reception held for us was a wonderful event. I appreciate the effort put into planning it and also for your encouragement by your generous financial investment in my education.

I will keep you informed of my progress at York University. I will seek to encourage other young people so strive for excellence and would be pleased to assist whenever possible.

Very best wishes for a joyous Christmas and a healthy, peaceful and fulfilling New Year.

May God bless you richly.

*Faith*

Faith Amour

**Volunteers are needed**

at the  
**Jamaican Canadian  
Association (JCA) Centre**

To establish a Scout Movement. The Scout Movement will provide stimulating indoor and outdoor programs for young people from 5-26 years. Scouts Canada and members of the Canadian Armed Forces will provide the necessary training and guidance in operating the group. For further information, please contact **BARRY MORRISON** at the JCA, **416-746-5772**

# DEVOTED JCA MEMBER - LOOKING BACK ...



Mr. David Sinclair is a devoted member of the Jamaican Canadian Association and a committed Community Worker. He is the recipient of the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture's 2001 Ontario Volunteer Service Award for fifteen (15) years of volunteering. He has also received the award for Dedicated Service to the JCA's Fundraising Committee. A proud grandfather to 21, great-grandfather to 18 as well as two (2) great-grand children, Mr. Sinclair considers his finest achievement to be that of training his children to take their proper place in civil society anywhere in the world. Today, his children are all successful, contributing members residing in various places.

Mr. Sinclair is a lover of life who never fails to be on the dance floor at all JCA events. He loves Jazz and Mento music. At 87 years of age, he believes that not smoking and just a rare drink while socializing with friends have attributed to his long and healthy life.

IF Where are you from?

DS Kingston, Jamaica. Love Lane in Fletchers Land.

IF What did you do while in Jamaica?

DS I worked in various stores and was also a contractor at the Kingston Corporation.

IF When did you come to Canada?  
DS I came to Canada in 1980.

IF What brought you to Canada?

DS Well, political changes necessitated this move. I was working on the Sandy Gully project - this was a government project and then there was a change in government administration and as such the staff hired by the previous administration was no longer allowed to continue working on the project.

IF Did you ever come to Canada before?

DS No. However, I was very uncomfortable with the political situation. I was never interested in traveling, but with my discomfort, I made up my mind to travel. I was quite comfortable normally, but with the experience I had had, I asked my daughter to apply for me and decided it was time to leave.

IF So you were very active in Jamaican politics then?

DS Yes, from 1938 I was in Ward Theatre when the Peoples National Party (PNP) was formed. I joined the first group of PNP in Temple Lane when you had to pay 2 pennies per month for membership dues. A penny would then stay into the group you were a part of and the other penny went to the Party Headquarters.

IF What was your role at this time?

DS The Constitution provided for groups within each area. At that time you needed at least 6 persons to form a group consisting of a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and a Treasurer. That is how the party got started. The groups are today's equivalent of constituencies.

IF What was it like for you when you had to leave to come to Canada?

DS When I came to Canada, I was glad to be here. I lived in the Lansdowne and Bloor area and back then it was very

uplifting. It reminded me of people back home in Jamaica. I thoroughly enjoyed going to various functions. As a senior, my desire was to be independent from my daughter and as such I got myself a job with a security firm as a Security Guard.

IF How long did you work as a Security Guard?

DS I worked with them for a number of years. The company was then sold while I was in Jamaica on vacation and after discussing the matter with my family, they were insistent that I did not need to work, particularly as I was doing these "graveyard" shifts and I also did not like the new uniforms we had to wear. I decided then that I would retire. I thought it was necessary to work when I arrived here and not to sit around and be lazy. As such, you can say that I have done my time here in Canada.

IF What is your family like and are they all here?

DS I have five (5) children and one (1) stepson. Three of my daughters are here in Canada, one is in Jamaica and my son is an Electrical Engineering professor at the University of Technology (formerly CAST) in Jamaica.

IF When did you become a member of JCA?

DS I became a member in 1984. I went to a function on a Saturday night and met a friend. JCA was then having a walkathon the following Sunday and I sponsored my friend. I worked the night shift and then went directly to Dufferin and Eglinton to join the walkathon. When I arrived, they had already left so I took the Dufferin bus and caught up with them. That was my first contribution to JCA.

IF How did you get involved in JCA?

DS I was a member of Excelsior Fraternal Society. It was here that I met people like Dr. John Brooks and my friend who just passed away, Josh Thompson. At Excelsior I had started the Domino Club and when I met Josh at JCA we talked about it and Josh got it started at JCA. Josh was appointed

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# YOUTH AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

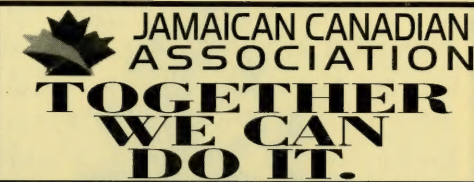
**Standing firmly by its motto: Unified People Learning and Improving for Tomorrow.** (U.P.L.I.F.T.) the Committee is continuing to do just that. It successfully hosted its 2nd Annual Career Expo in February entitled "Exposing Youth to Greater Heights". Numerous Black professionals, representing a variety of industries, were on hand to provide high school students with insightful, educational, and career advice. The event also included a series of workshops that offered useful tips on building skills and securing summer employment opportunities. Students were also treated to a special film presentation by local black filmmaker Christene Brown. She showcased some of her material and participated in a discussion with the students afterwards. The professionals and teachers in attendance were impressed with the Committee members' zeal and devotion to youth.

The JCA Women's Committee also acknowledged their commitment. In celebration of International Women's Day in March, the Women's Committee recognized the dedicated volunteer work of ten women in the community. Among the recipients were Natalie and Natasha Blake, both active members of the JCA who sit on the executive board of the Youth Affairs Committee.

The Committee is currently organizing its upcoming workshop to be held on Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, and will feature historian extraordinaire, Mr. Terrence Jackson. On a recent visit to his home, the Committee was mesmerized by his vivid historical knowledge and his endless personal collection of original historical artifacts. His engaging personality promises to

make the next workshop a real delight as he takes the audience on an enchanting journey through our rich and glorious past. The Youth Affairs Committee extends a warm invitation for all to attend and be captivated!

The Committee also welcomes all interested individuals to join. For more info, contact David Griffiths, Youth Committee Chair, at 416-746-5772 ext. 422 or [youthaffairs@jcassoc.org](mailto:youthaffairs@jcassoc.org)





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## Acting Executive Director's REPORT

Errol Bonner

### PROGRAMS and SERVICES

#### OVERVIEW OF CARIBBEAN YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES:

- C.Y.F.S. continues to be involved with family members, school personnel, professional workers, institutions and others in situations where multi-faceted problems are evident.
  - The aim of C.Y.F.S. is to concentrate on the following issues affecting the community.
    - Students experiencing difficulties in school and the high rate of school dropouts.
    - High level of teenage involvement with the legal system.
    - Children of single mothers who lack positive male role models.
    - Breakdown of the re-union of parent and children after a lengthy separation.
    - Youth who are unable or unwilling to live with their families and therefore, must be prepared for an independent existence.

The services provided by Caribbean Youth and Family Services (C.Y.F.S.) include:

- **LEADERS IN PARTNERSHIP (LIP):**

The Leaders in Partnership project (LIP) is an initiative between the Jamaican Canadian Association and the Toronto Police Service Community Response Unit 31 Division.

The LIP program is a social development program specifically designed for children ages 7-12 years. The program will help children in developing a more

positive attitude to school and their community. The program encourages self-control, self-respect and consideration for others.

- **TRANSITION PROGRAM (K-CLUB):**

The K-Club helps young men and women 16-24 years of Black/Caribbean heritage make the transition from jail to prepare them for successful integration to family and community life.

Culturally attuned staff and volunteers combine individual counseling and group support to help prepare inmates and ex-inmates for life after incarceration, and reduce the potential for re-offending that can develop through lack of support.

- **PARENTING PROGRAM:**

The objectives of the Parenting Program are to bring parents and children together in a supportive learning environment. The program creates an environment where parents have the opportunity to exchange ideas; teaches parents and children how to interact appropriately with each other; helps parents identify when children are at risk; teaches parents more effective ways to discipline their children.

- **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND INCEST/CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE PROGRAM:**

Designed to address and eradicate violence in the lives of women and children from the Caribbean/Black community. Through culturally sensitive services, advocacy and public education services which include individualized and group counselling on all issues of domestic violence; police/staff escort services to obtain medical attention, police protection, court appearances, financial assistance, housing and educational programs.

#### OTHER PROGRAMS

- **OPPORTUNITY PLUS+**

(Employment services for the experienced worker):

A job preparation program for unemployed workers 45 years of age and over. Clients get quick, personal help in preparing resumes and polishing interview skills; show clients how to look for jobs on the Internet or how to start your own business.

#### SETTELEMENT PROGRAM:

- **Immigrant Settlement & Adaptation Program (ISAP):** Serves immigrants who are landed for three years or less, or hold a work/study permit.
- **Newcomer Settlement Program (NSP):** Serves immigrants who are landed for ten years or less, or persons applying for their landed status.

The ISAP and NSP programs are designed to help participants make a smooth, positive transition from life in the Caribbean and Africa to life in Canada. Clients get information on employment, education, housing, family sponsorship, health, recreation, as well as connect newcomers to other relevant community support services.

- **SATURDAY MORNING TUTORIAL AND HERITAGE PROGRAM:**

The Jamaican Canadian Association has committed itself to delivering programs that sustain the academic achievements of Caribbean and African children. One such program is the Saturday Morning Tutorial and Heritage Program, which were established in 1991.

The main aim of the program is to assist the students in doing their homework, primarily in English and Mathematics. However, other subjects such as basic knowledge of Computers, General Science, Information Technology (Internet) and Heritage are also introduced in the program. Field trips to educational and places of interests in the city are regularly organized

Continued on page 11



# JCA WOMEN'S SPACE

## and Poverty.

**February, 2003 - Joyce L. Ross, Dr., CM: Founder & Executive Director, East Preston Day Care Centre.**

Dr. Joyce Ross has been active in her community of East Preston, Nova Scotia since her childhood and was the driving force behind the creation of the East Preston Day Care Centre, which she has been running as Executive Director since 1995.

In 1969 she completed a survey of the local population to identify means of improving the community; a day care facility was often mentioned. In 1974 Dr. Ross and a small committee secured land from a community resident and erected a facility to be used for a day care. Since then, the East Preston Day Care Centre has expanded four times. It accommodates 115 children aged six months to ten years; employs 25 staff and offers a wide range of programs for children and services for adults. The Centre has been honoured by many organizations including the Canadian Child Care Federation as one of the top ten child care centers in Nova Scotia.

Dr. Ross's other extensive community involvement includes: Organizing Girl Guides movement, Black United Front, Dartmouth YMCA and many more. She has been honoured on numerous occasions including: Hon. LLD Dalhousie University, 2002, Order of Canada, 2002, United Way, Black Educator's Association and many more.

## ACTIVITIES:

### Round Table Discussion (RTD):

On August 26, 2002 the Women's Committee organized a RTD on Women and Poverty. The presenters were Eunice Graham and Carmen Sutherland (Committee members). Areas discussed included: What does it mean to be poor in Canada, Factors that make women more vulnerable to poverty, Structural reasons for the continuing poverty of women, The impact of the poverty of women on society, Senior women and poverty and what can we do about women and poverty.

On November 22, 2002 another RTD was held on Elder Abuse. The facilitators for this event were Amy Nelson and Zenover Brown (Committee members). Areas of focus were Definition of Abuse, Types of Abuse, and Strategies to prevent and/or reduce the incidence of Elder Abuse. The group was also informed of the Ontario Strategy to combat Elder Abuse. **International Women's Day (IWD) Celebration:**

On Sunday March 16, 2003 the Women's Committee celebrated IWD at the JCA Centre. Our guest speaker was Marie Clarke Walker, Executive Vice President of the Canadian Labour Congress. She gave a powerful and thought provoking presentation on the theme "Women's Rights are Human Rights" which focused on the effects of war and violence against women and children. Excerpts from her presentation:

- She pointed out the devastation, atrocities and human suffering as a consequence of war and that women and children bear the brunt of the suffering although they do not create war.

- She emphasized the economic costs of war and its impact. That whenever there are cuts to government programs such as health care, education and other social

assistance, women and children suffer the most.

- She said that we need a social order that is based on justice, equality, human rights, democracy and dignity in order to create a more peaceful world.

- While acknowledging that women have made some gains and a few have achieved leadership, she said that is not enough we have a long way to go and now more than ever we must get involved and continue working towards greater representation of women in decision-making positions.

- Ms. Clarke Walker praised the accomplishments of Black women in the community and challenged us to unite and speak with one voice so our concerns can be heard.

- She also reminded us of the importance of parents becoming actively involved in their children's education.

The program also included the Committee's fourth annual "Women Recognizing Women" awards. Ten women were presented with certificates of recognition for their significant contribution to the organization over the years. The Committee also received greetings and a congratulatory message from Honourable Jean Augustine, MP, Secretary of State (Multiculturalism, Status of Women). This event was a huge success. A big thank you to our presenters, entertainers, JCA Board, membership and all others who contributed to the success of this function.

## Results of the Women's Committee Survey:

In August of 2002 the Committee conducted a survey as part of the evaluation of the work of the Committee and its 5-Year Plan. The results are as follows:

Forty percent (40%) of participants completed the questionnaire.

Sixty-five (65%) of respondents rated the performance of the Women's Committee as excellent, 23% good and 7% satisfactory.

All 100% reported that the Committee was an important aspect of the JCA. 15% found the articles in "Women's Space" of the *In Focus* most helpful, 46% very helpful, 23% helpful, 7% not helpful. Activities / Events sponsored by the Committee that were most useful to respondents were: Forum 42%, Health Fair and Round Table Discussion 38%, Film Presentation and Discussion 34%, Workshop 23%. The majority (77%) of respondents reported having a good understanding of the role of the Women's Committee within the organization e.g. a vital arm of JCA, an asset, provides an educational role, projects undertaken are valuable, fosters and bring women's issues to the fore, bridges the gap with other women's groups.

Additional comments were extremely positive e.g. "Doing a worthwhile job"; "Very impressed with the work of the Committee"; "Thank you for your dedicated work throughout the many years; Please continue the good work."

These results are being utilized in planning future programs and activities.

## Other Activities:

The Women's Committee was represented on the Committee that produced the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary video: The Jamaican Canadian Association, Its Founders, Its Legacy, 40 Years of Caring and Sharing.

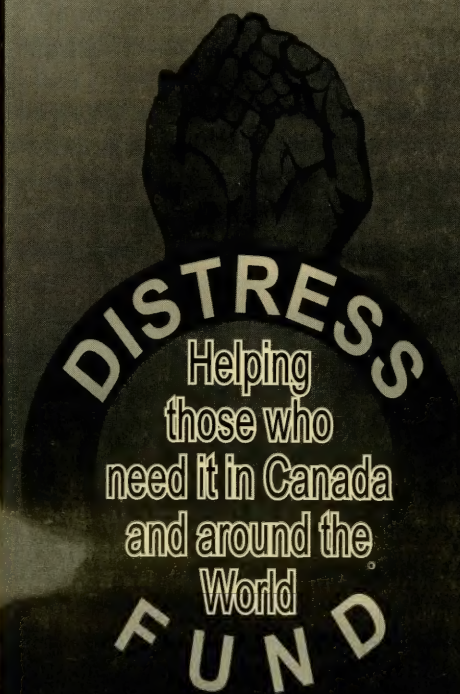
## We continue to:

Host the Alzheimer Society Coffee Break

Support Eva's Place and the Women for P.A.C.E. Annual Toy Drive Sponsorship of a girlchild in Zambia.



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# Acting Executive Director's **REPORT** Continued

The program is available to students between the ages of **6 and 15 (grades 1-8)**. However, grades 9 and 10 students are accepted in special cases.

**Registration is on first come first served basis** and it begins on the first day of each Semester-**September and January**. There is a minimal fee per child for each Semester and the cost is determined at the time of registration.

## • CARIBBEAN CANADIAN SENIORS CLUB:

The Club encourages members to live active, healthy lifestyles, and to lobby on issues of interest to seniors. Members meet at the JCA Community Centre on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00 a.m. 4:00

# Fundraising Chairperson

The Nominating Committee welcomes Ms. Letna O. Allen who was appointed by the JCA Board of Directors as Fundraising Chairperson until May 2004.

Letna comes highly recommended to this position. One member of the Fundraising Committee explained: *I was very impressed how businesslike she was at her first meeting. We all went away feeling good and with assignments to do.*

Letna was born in Clarendon, Jamaica. She is a past student of Clarendon College, a graduate of the Jamaica School of Drama, Edna Manley School of the Performing Arts, the Institute of Management and Production, and a graduate of the College of Arts Science and Technology where she completed a

Certificate program in Entrepreneurial Skills.

Letna is an educator who taught in all panels of the Jamaican Education system. She is currently pursuing a degree program in Business Administration at York University.

Letna is no stranger to voluntarism. Included in her long list of volunteering activities is her role as President of Kiwanis Club of Scarborough, the Eglinton Community Initiative, former Board Member of East Scarborough Boys and Girls Club, and member of Division 13<sup>th</sup> Community Metro Police Liaison Committee.

JCA welcomes you Letna.

## Nominating Committee Report Continued

### Milton Hart (Public Relations Candidate)

Born in Kingston, I enjoyed my childhood and memorable high-school education. I completed St. George's College followed by an eight-year stint with the Jamaica Defense Force. This proved invaluable to my understanding of media and communications-related concepts. Operating in the Jamaican infantry as a communications expert, I enjoyed advanced communications/media training in Warminster, England and New Brunswick, Canada. I migrated to Canada in 1992 and embarked on post-secondary studies in communications at York University (Toronto) where I attended, and successfully completed, studies in English and Mass-communications. Graduate studies (1999-2001), at York University, were undertaken as a means of elucidating the impact of the American Media on the Jamaican psyche. This course of study culminated in a Master of Environmental Studies degree where the environment studied was the Jamaican social milieu.

### Professional Affiliation

While pursuing university degrees in the areas of communications and media, I gained precious practical experience by virtue of writing commentaries for Pride

News-magazine. This relationship with Canada's premier non-mainstream newspaper began in 1998 and my duties involved interviewing interesting individuals as a means of generating thought-stimulating articles, attending events where community-related events were being held, and liaising with other media organizations. This affinity for the media has resulted in me hosting radio programs and functioning in the capacity of managing editor for Scriptic Innovations (a company that provides writing solutions to communication-related problems).

### Future Plan

I am desirous to effectively function in the capacity of *Public Relations Chair* at the Jamaican Canadian Association. I am particularly interested in this position because of my background in media-relations and due to the fact that the community needs the help of its constituents. Though I understand the seriousness entailed in this position, I am eagerly anticipating the many challenges. Having already worked in this committee, I am mindful that its members possess tremendous abilities that will facilitate the meeting of deadlines and the completion of tasks.

### Treasurer:

Position: (Unfilled)  
Membership Chair: (Unfilled)

# EDITORIAL

## Continued

construction skills. It goes without saying that if your children do not have the basics in Mathematics, then they will be unable to do Calculus. The Jamaican school system is more than capable to give the children the foundation they need, so it is important that they do not stop attending while they await the date and ticket to leave.

The test results are generally graded in three 'streams', ACADEMIC which allows the student to prepare for university, APPLIED, which allows the student to prepare for college and BASIC which prepares student for entering the workplace. It is an understood fact that not all children will attend university or college, however, being unprepared, should not be the reason our children are unable to attend. It is important to remember that once your children are educated, whether or not they choose to work in their field of study becomes a choice. However, if the children are uneducated, there is little or no choice in where they work.

It is a proven fact that as the children become aware of their inability to cope with the educational system, they become frustrated and lose focus. When this happens, it becomes very easy for them to seek comfort in the wrong crowd. We must do all in our power as parents to eradicate the drop out rate of our children.

As the school year ends and many parents may be in the process of having the children join them here in Canada, please be cognizant of the requirements, encourage your children to stay in school, support them in their transition and together the community will be able to pull itself out of the morass of miseducation, lack of education and be able to seal the cracks through which the children have fallen for years. It is our responsibility!

# RAPID REMITTANCE MONEY TRANSFER 15 Minutes to JAMAICA

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R.I.P.

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Jamaican Canadian  
Association,  
our condolences are extended  
to the family and friends of  
**Josh Thompson**  
and  
**Rosemary Brown**  
at their recent passing



## ...DEVOTED JCA MEMBER LOOKING BACK... Continued



David Sinclair (left) in attendance at Festival of Ontario, on the Queen's visit, along with Bruce McDonald and other JCA'S members

and I was appointed Vice President of the Domino Club.

IF Why did you think it was important to become involved as a member of JCA?

DS Sometime after I participated in the walkathon, the location at Dupont Street was purchased. Roy Williams was President at the time and at one of the functions held at Dupont I suggested that we should form a Seniors Group as I was attending another seniors group with a friend in the Jane Street area. However, there was an existing informal seniors group at JCA. The other suggestion I made was that the Association should create a Fundraising Committee. This was necessary as the building had to be paid for. The other thing that impressed me was that the JCA had a Credit Union and I was a Credit Union member in Jamaica and strongly believed in it. I then became a member of the Board of the Credit Union and walked many miles to sell it to people.

IF What committees have you participated in at the JCA?

DS Aside from the Domino Club, I have been a member of the Fundraising Committee since I suggested that the JCA start one and have continued to sit on that committee. I was also the person who brought up the idea of having the flag poles placed in front of the present building. I am grateful to Hector Gray for his agreement and

support in getting the flag and flag poles put in place.

IF What would you say are some of the benefits of being a member of JCA?

DS When I came to Canada I decided to become a fully functioning member of the society. As soon as I was able to, I applied for my citizenship and believe that I have the right to participate in all the rights and privileges of citizenship. When JCA had its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 1987, I was the first male to be given the President's Award along with Hyacinth Wilson and Mrs. Grace Williams. I realized that the JCA had an excellent program going when I joined and simply wanted to be able to participate and support the program.

IF What would you consider the role of the JCA in the community?

DS I believe the JCA is necessary for the community and I believe it is the strongest and healthiest organization that can support and participate in helping the people of our community.

IF Is there anything specific that you would like to see the JCA do?

DS I strongly believed in the Credit Union and would really appreciate if it would come back to the JCA. The loss of the Credit Union was really a big blow to JCA. I know one former President had promised to work on getting it back. I hope that happens.

IF Where do you want to see the JCA heading?

DS I would really like to see us pay off for the building.

IF What is the major difference you see, from your perspective, between Jamaica and Canada?

DS When I came to Toronto in 1980, there was not much difference with the people of Toronto from the people of Jamaica. However, when I

read in the Jamaican papers that my King Street had to be closed down because residents are blocking up the street, that really hurts me. When I was growing up in Jamaica, King Street was where you got dressed to go shop, walk and socialize - that was the heart of our city. That kind of behaviour pains me and is truly a blow to people like me. I am not used to that.

IF What message would you like to leave with JCA and the readers?

DS I would like to congratulate the organization for the nearly 41 years of service to all the people who have sought its help. I encourage people to support the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary mortgage reduction project by giving the \$1.00 per year for each year the organization has been helping people. Now it is almost 41 years old so we should make it \$41.00. It is important that the mortgage be paid off. It seems to me that one can never finish paying for property here in Canada, but I would love to see JCA paid off like we are able to completely pay off mortgages in Jamaica. In my lifetime, I would like to see the JCA own its property and that it becomes a shining light for our people to come. The reason I have that strong hope and desire is, when I look back on the Liberty Hall building in Jamaica, not being used, it seems to be a white elephant. JCA, if maintained and used to its full capacity, one day people will be able to say, this is an organization for black people, owned and operated by black people. I hope that JCA will be there to serve my grand and great grand children in the years to come.

IF Thank You.

DS Thank you.



## Combating Violent Behavior Continued

The above-mentioned quote outlines the importance of Black-run businesses, organizations and church to the Black family's survival.

### Crime

Should Black on Black violence go unchecked in our society the Black family will be hardest hit.

"Over recent years the rise in the proportion of crime affecting Black families has become an issue of great concern. An increase in the number of Black males as victims of homicides took place over the last twenty years. Becoming a homicide victim is highly correlated with race, gender, and age. Data reveal that Black men are the most likely victims of homicide". (Jewell, 85)

Think about this: If one Black man kills another, this situation may create two families that are devoid of a father in the sense that one Black man will go to the morgue and the other will be incarcerated. Where this situation pervades the society, the Black family will not be the only facet affected but the entire society in general because the Black family has much to contribute.

### Racism

It is difficult to have this discussion without including the matter of racism; a problem that is adversely affecting the Black family. Black men have historically had limited employment opportunities, fewer spaces in university enrollment quotas and have been subject to racial profiling. People of African ancestry have historically had the highest unemployment rates and are marginalized into low-paying jobs. Unless we believe that some people are just inherently violent, we should see where societal factors have tremendously contributed to crime in our society.

There are also the matters of

underemployment, inconsistent employment and lower wages. We can see where, in these circumstances, the Black child will have a greater likelihood of living at or below the poverty line. When men do not work, do not earn sufficient wages, or are constantly harassed by the powers-that-be, they are less interested in becoming husbands since they are hindered in their ability to perform the provider role in marriage. The resulting situation may be more children devoid of the male-influence in their lives.

### Conclusion

There has been a public outcry about Black on Black violence but I have not heard of any concrete solution put forward by the government. The powers-that-be are in denial where

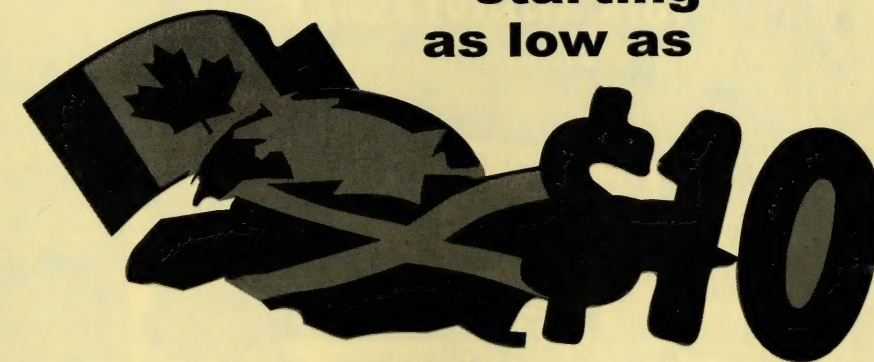
societal problems (such as racial profiling and unemployment) are concerned. These problems are contributing to the break-down of the family and subsequently more violence. The enhancement of the Black family, via public policy and support from the Black community, will go a far way in reducing Black on Black violence. I, like most people in the Black community, have come to grips with the fact that violence exists in the community and that it is detrimental to everyone. It is about time the relevant authorities realize that the circumstances that are hindering the Black family from taking a more prominent position in society are real.

Work Cited  
Jewell, K. Sue. *Survival of the Black Family*. New York: Praeger, 1988

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# JCA's GOLF COMMITTEE *REPORT*

A reception to launch the Jamaican Canadian Association's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity Golf Classic was held on May 2, 2003. The 2003 tournament will take place on **Saturday afternoon, August 16, at the Cardinal Golf Club in Kettleby**, the same facilities as the last two years. A **reception and dinner will follow at the JCA Centre**. Those who do not golf are invited to join us for the dinner. If you would like to learn the basics of the game before August 16, Alvin Ffrench gives lessons at the centre on Wednesday evenings.

The committee is working to attract even more than the 140 golfers who participated in 2002 and to top what was, by all measures, a banner year. Golfers representing the United States came from places as far away as Detroit, Rochester, Miami, and Alexandria in Virginia. The Toronto Police Services sent a team. Councillor George Mammoliti joined us. There was a tremendous increase in sponsorship and donor support: 52 corporations and individuals, from 38 in 2001. **FLOW 93.5** was again the Media Sponsor; **Sandals** came on

board as the Event Sponsor; **Western Union** was the Dinner Sponsor; **Brantville Construction**, the Hole-In-One Sponsor; **Southport Data System**, the Prize Table Sponsor; and **Grace Kennedy Foods**, the Cart Sponsor. Trip and Resort Stay Sponsors were **Sandals, Air Jamaica, Wyndham Rose Hall Resort, and Mirabel Travel**. Hole sponsors were **Alta Nissan, CBM Group Ltd., and Tracedata Services Inc.** Tee sponsors were **Jamaica Tourist Board, Guinness Extra Stout, and Kedar Hair Design**. A full list of all 52 sponsors and donors was posted on the JCA Web site.

A survey taken at the 2002 reception indicated that golfers would be interested in taking a **golfing trip to Jamaica**. As a **public relations service to Sandals and Mirabel Travel**, two of our sponsors in the travel and tourism industry, the committee organized a **one-week all-inclusive trip to Sandals in Dunns River, from March 6 to 13, 2003**. Twenty golfers went; the reports are that it was a wonderful, glorious week of golf. Earl Lalor has written a separate report on that event.

So how much money has the JCA Golf Committee raised? The 2002 profit of \$16,595 was more than satisfactory. The donated trips and hotel stays were auctioned, in large measure accounting for the financial success. In 2001, we made \$7,796 and in 2000, the inaugural year, when we had a consultant, we netted \$644. The less than stellar showing in 2000 spurred us to compensate by being the organizers of the Merritone Dance in January 2001; that dance netted \$13,644. As you can see, then, the JCA Golf Committee has raised \$38,679 in three years, while expanding the JCA offerings and providing a fun time for participants.

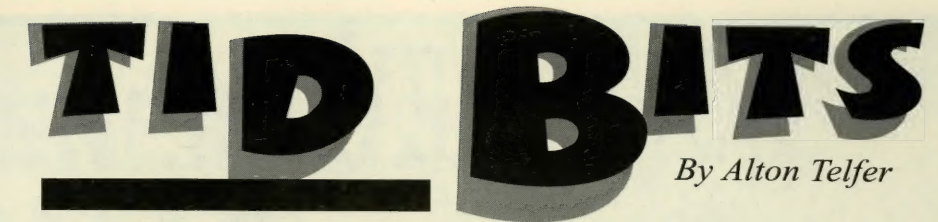
It is probably useful to give a little bit of history here. You will recall that a Capital Fund-raising Committee

existed from 1998 to 2001. In the first year, under the chairmanship of Kamala Jean Gopie, it raised \$55,000 from various banks. In 1999 to 2000 the committee was chaired by Erma Collins. Apart from trying to attract corporate and individual donors, the committee, during the United Way block-out time, began to look around for other activities. It ended up introducing the Boonoonoonos Brunch, taking over the Merritone Dance in 2000 (Herman Stewart had gotten Merritone to give a benefit the year before), and liaising with Alvin Ffrench to start the Annual Golf Tournament. At the AGM in 2000, the committee reported that, apart from the bank donations, it had raised \$102,688 from corporations, individuals, and functions. In 2001, the Capital Fund-raising Committee was chaired by Paul Barnett, and the Boonoonoonos Brunch raised \$10,925 that year. (The brunch was organized by the regular Fund-raising Committee in 2002 and 2003). In summary, I am saying that the Capital Fund-raising Committee and one of its offshoots, the Golf Committee, has raised \$207,292 for the JCA between 1998 and now. Not bad, eh!

Prepared by Erma Collins, Board Liaison

For

Karl Killingbeck, Chair  
Neville Miles  
Alvin Ffrench, Past Chair  
Keith Mills  
Winston Earle  
Jeff Patterson  
Earl Lalor  
Alton Telfer



We have come to the end of a long and severe winter, which was considered the coldest since 1948. Monday, March 3, 2003 was a day to remember when the temperature dipped to minus 24C, accompanied with a wind-chill factor that took it to minus 28C.

This was certainly the coldest day in Toronto, of the forty years I have been around. During the month of February and the beginning of March, there were the occasional days when the weatherman announced that it would be warming up to minus 7C. Psychologically, it was as if a heat wave was coming on.

The winter of 2001/2002 was the warmest and best we had in many years. I remarked at the time that a payback time would come, and so it did with this winter, 2002/2003. Many Canadians jetted away in search of warmer climes. I took the opportunity and went to Kingston, Jamaica where the temperature was constantly between 31C and 32C. Jamaica, as always, is the place to visit for a holiday, although inflation gets higher, almost on a daily basis due to the fact that the dollar kept falling and was devalued against other major currencies. At the time, the value of the Jamaican dollar to the US and Canadian dollar and the British Pound was \$65, \$35 and \$81 respectively. Devaluation of any currency breeds inflation.

Jamaicans are known to be a resilient people and at no time is this more evident than during difficult times. The devaluation does not appear to reflect in the daily lives on the people living there - no one complains, business goes on as usual, and the majority have their cell phones hooked to their side.

Speaking of cell phones, did you know that in Jamaica, if you use your home phone to call a cell phone you must dial one (1) before the number and it is considered a long-distance call. A call from one cell phone to another costs upwards on \$J9.00 per minute. Some will say that it is Jamaican currency and therefore not worth much, however, I think that is it is a lot of money and seems unaffordable relative to the earning power of the masses. In Canadian terms that call costs more than a quarter per minute!

While I am discussing Jamaica, let me now focus on Michael Lee-Chin for a moment. Many of you have heard of him, a son of Jamaica, living in Canada. He is 51 years old and rated as the 15<sup>th</sup> richest person in Canada and the 413<sup>th</sup> richest in the world. This is certainly a commendable achievement to state it lightly. You may have known by now that Mr. Lee-Chin is the majority shareholder of the National Commercial Bank (NCB) in Jamaica, (formerly Barclays) and he recently donated \$M30 to the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) in Toronto, Canada.

Some say that he should give one of those millions to the Jamaican Canadian Association so that we could surrender our mortgages and be debt free. Lets keep our hopes up; he still has a few million dollars left so he could still come through for us. It is my understanding that Mr. Lee-Chin will be financing a University in Jamaica for training of business people. He also has \$M15 in

*Continued on page 17*



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# MOVIE REVIEW

By Michelle Blake

## "John Q": How far would you go for a loved one?

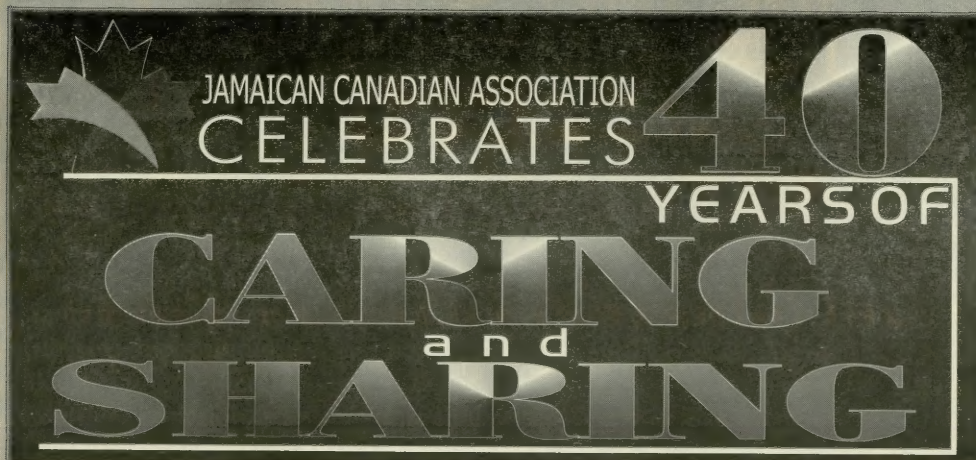
How far would you go to save a loved one? Thankfully this is a question that many of us may never have to answer. But for John Archibald (Denzel Washington), in the drama "John Q" the question drives him to stage a high stake crisis where life and death are the only options.

"John Q" tells the story of John Archibald, his wife Denise (Kimberly Elise), and son Mike (Daniel E. Smith); a working class family struggling to cope in difficult economic times. John is working part time at a factory due to a cut in his hours, and Denise works at a grocery store. Despite the financial hardships, they are a loving and happy family who have good friends and are respected by their congregation and community. Tragedy strikes the family unexpectedly when their son Mike collapses during a baseball game. It is later discovered he suffers from a rare heart disease and will need a heart transplant to survive. The cost of the transplant is a quarter of a million dollars, and John is informed that his insurance will not cover the procedure. Unwilling to let their only child die, John and Denise set about contacting various relief and assistance agencies in an effort to raise money to save their son.

Desperate to pay the rising costs, the Archibalds soon take to selling their possessions and accepting charity from their congregation but it is still far too little as they are denied assistance time after time by the government. Even more insulting, after literally begging the hospital administration to put their son on the donors list, they are still denied. Sadly, hospital administration is more concerned with the bottom line than helping the son of a poor man.

After being informed of his sons pending release from the hospital due to lack of funds, John takes matters into his own hands, taking the hospital's emergency room staff and patients hostage. John has a very simple request: all he wants is to have his son's name placed on the donor list so that he might have a chance to live.

"John Q" is a sign of the times, as many of us can relate to inadequacies in our faltering healthcare system or having to pull together with loved ones in difficult economic times. John Q is a feel good movie where the working class guy wins.



# TID BITS

Continued

equity funds to support the redevelopment of the downtown Kingston business area. We need a few more Jamaicans like Mr. Lee-Chin.

Once again, the JCA's annual charity golf classic will be held on Saturday, August 16, 2003 at the Cardinal Golf and Country Club. We are in the process of soliciting sponsors and prize donors. Please help us by asking the company you work for or the store you do your shopping to be a sponsor or donate items for the prize table. There are several categories of sponsorship ranging from \$5000.00 for a "Title Sponsor" to \$350.00 for a "Hole Sponsor". A sponsor or donor will receive adequate publicity for their support. For more information please call Alton Telfer at 416-452-4551. Personal donations are welcome.

To conclude, let me use this medium to congratulate the St. Thomas Health Care Organization for sponsoring another successful brunch on April 13<sup>th</sup> at the JCA. Over 450 guests attended. Chairman Dan Williamson and President Andrea Wilkie did a commendable job. This is an act of charity for the people in Jamaica. There are those who had lost the ability to read their newspapers that are now able to do so as a result of this good-will organization. Have a safe and enjoyable summer.



# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SUNDAY  
MAY 25, 2003  
2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Jamaican Canadian Centre  
995 Arrow Road

For further information call  
JCA at (416) 746-5772

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# COOK'S CORNER

## CURRIED LOBSTER

*From the cook book "More Down to Earth Jamaican Cooking"*

by Laurice de Gale. For your copy of this excellent cook book, call: (416) 267-6081.

*¼ cup margarine  
2 large onions, sliced thinly  
1 clove garlic, minced  
3 tablespoons curry powder  
3 tomatoes, coarsely chopped  
1 green sweet pepper, sliced in rings  
1 sprig thyme, fresh or dried  
1 Scotch Bonnet pepper chopped (remove seeds)  
1 cup water  
Salt and black pepper to taste  
2 cups lobster meat*

1. Heat margarine in a deep skillet. 2. Add onions and garlic and sauté. 3. Add the curry powder and stir for 1 or 2

minutes. 4. Stir in the tomatoes, green sweet pepper, thyme, Scotch Bonnet pepper, and water. 5. Bring the mixtures to a boil, and reduce heat. 6. Gently stir in the lobster meat, being careful not to break up the chunks. 7. Add black pepper and salt to taste. 8. Simmer for 10 minutes or until the liquid is reduced to desired consistency. Serve with steaming boiled rice and a fresh salad or steamed mixed vegetables.

**Serves 4**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
<u>EDUCATION COMMITTEE</u>	Sat. May 10 <sup>th</sup>	3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	HALL #1
<u>JCA MOTHERS' DAY BRUNCH</u>	Sun. May 11 <sup>th</sup>	1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	HALLS #1 & 2
<u>OPPORTUNITY PLUS</u>	Thu. May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9:00 a.m. - 1:00pm	HALL #1
<u>JCA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING</u>	Sun. May 25 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	HALL #1
<u>STRAWBERRY TEA FUNCTION</u>	Sun. Jun 1 <sup>st</sup>	T.B.A	HALLS #1 & 2
<u>JCA ANNUAL PICNIC</u>	Sun July 6 <sup>th</sup>	All Day	GEULPH
<u>JCA FLAG RAISING CEREMONY</u>	Sun. Aug. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	2:00 p.m.	TORONTO CITY HALL PODIUM
<u>JCA OPEN HOUSE</u>	Mon. Aug. 4 <sup>th</sup>	All day	JCA
<u>JCA INDEPENDENCE DINNER &amp; DANCE</u>	Sat. Aug. 9 <sup>th</sup>	T.B.A.	HALLS AND LOUNGE
<u>JCA 5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC TOURNAMENT</u>	Sat. Aug. 16 <sup>th</sup>	1:30 p.m.	CARDINAL GOLF
<u>JCA'S GOLF CLASSIC RECEPTION</u>	Sat. Aug. 16 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 p.m.	HALLS #1 & 2

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